R-47

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JUL 9 1964

Honorable John W. Wydler
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman:

At the request of Mr. Chief Justice Warren, I am responding to your letter of July 1, 1964 requesting information to aid you in answering correspondence from your constituent, Laura T. Mastrogianni of 120 Bellmore Street, Floral Park, New York, concerning the employment of Norman Redlich as a consultant with this Commission.

Mr. Redlich is a member of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, which organization denied that it is or ever has been a Communist Front. Mr. Redlich has informed the Commission that his interest in this organization has always been because of his great concern for civil liberties of all American citizens. The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee has never been cited by the Department of Justice, but has been cited by the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Senate Subversive Activities Committee.

On May 19, 1964, at a meeting attended by all the Commissioners, the Commission cleared all the members of its staff to handle classified information. On behalf of the Commission I can assure you that during this meeting each employee of the Commission was considered on an individual basis by the members of the Commission. The charges which had been raised in the public press and in Congress regarding Mr. Redlich were certainly of concern to the Commissioners. I know personally that each member of the Commission was aware of these charges and considered it of paramount importance that these matters be investigated thoroughly prior to any decision by the Commission.

As I am sure you know, the investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with regard to a Government employee's background is a very comprehensive one. During the Bureau's investigation relating to Professor Redlich, interviews were conducted with

cc: Mr. Rankin
Mr. Willens

R-48



numerous persons well acquainted with his organizational affiliations, his political beliefs, his intellectual training and attainments, his personal habits and associates, and other matters which might shed light on his capacity to serve as a consultant to this Commission. Each member of the Commission reviewed the complete investigative file relating to Professor Redlich.

I hope that this information will be of assistance in answering your constituent's inquiry. Miss Mastrogianni's letter is enclosed.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel